

## ***Sustaining the Islands – Community Stewardship Awards Program***



**Islands Trust**

### **2005 Award Winner Profile**

**Winner:** Hornby Water Stewardship Project

**Category:** Group/Organization

**Project:** Water testing and public education to protect water quality

**Nominators:** Hornby Island Local Trustees Tony Law and Eleanor Kneffel

#### **Project Description:**

The main objective of the project is to help residents protect the island's groundwater through educational seminars and workshops, runoff water testing and private well testing. The second objective is to protect the surrounding marine waters from pollution.

When the project was conceived, there were no other communities or islands in the Gulf of Georgia on which to base a water stewardship program. Community consultation and involvement were key factors in the success of the project. Since 1996 the Hornby Water Stewardship Project has trained 23 water testers to Environment Canada standards; organized three septic system workshops; conducted more than 800 runoff water tests and produced a comprehensive report on the tests; tested wells monthly to determine whether pollution patterns correlated with the runoff study results; and, sponsored public meetings on well construction/protection and water borne diseases.

The group has also participated in numerous studies and conferences, such as the Royal Roads University College small-lot study of development with relation to water use; the Diana Allen Groundwater Geochemistry Study of Hornby Island and the Coastal Zone Canada conference in Victoria. It has provided numerous private well tests for residents and promoted rainwater collection by providing water barrels for sale, as well as sponsoring the Rainwater Harvesting Workshop with the Islands Trust.

The group has published information on septic system care and water conservation; and, produced a poster on water conservation. As well, the group has erected several signs for public education, ranging from the 'No Sewage Dumping' float at Tribune Bay, the 'Conserve Protect our Groundwater' signs at the aquifers designated in the Bill Hodge Report on Hornby aquifer study, the 'Groundwater is a Shared Responsibility' sign at the ferry terminal and the 'Hornby Island is a Water Conservation Zone' sign at the Hornby Co-op.